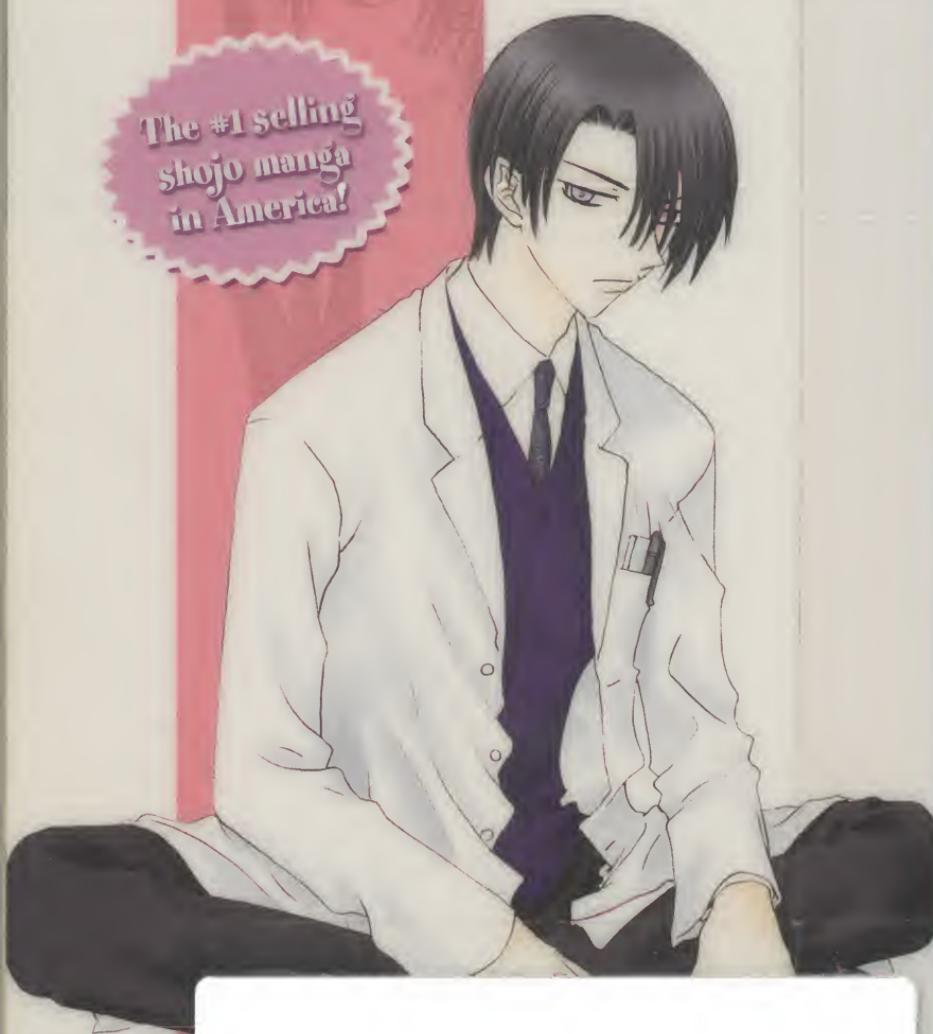


Fruits Basket

The #1 selling
shojo manga
in America!

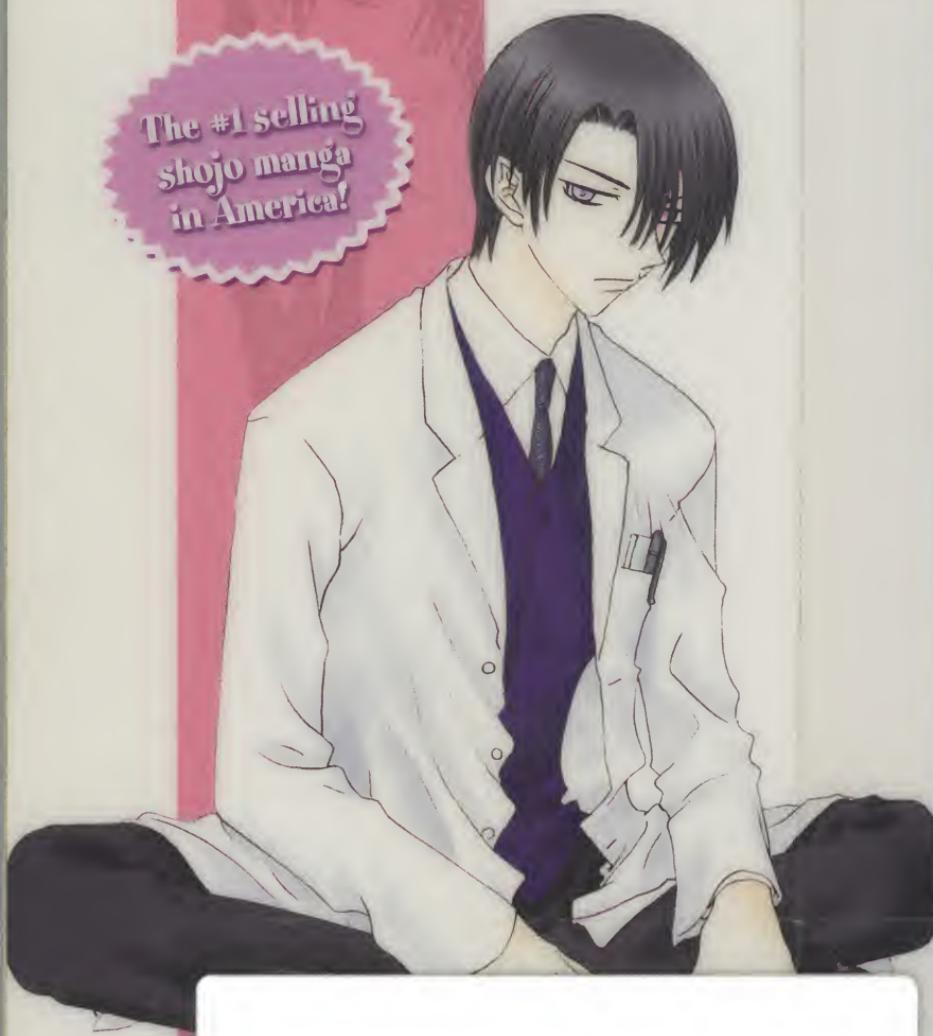


7

Makoto Takaya

Fruits Basket™

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in America!

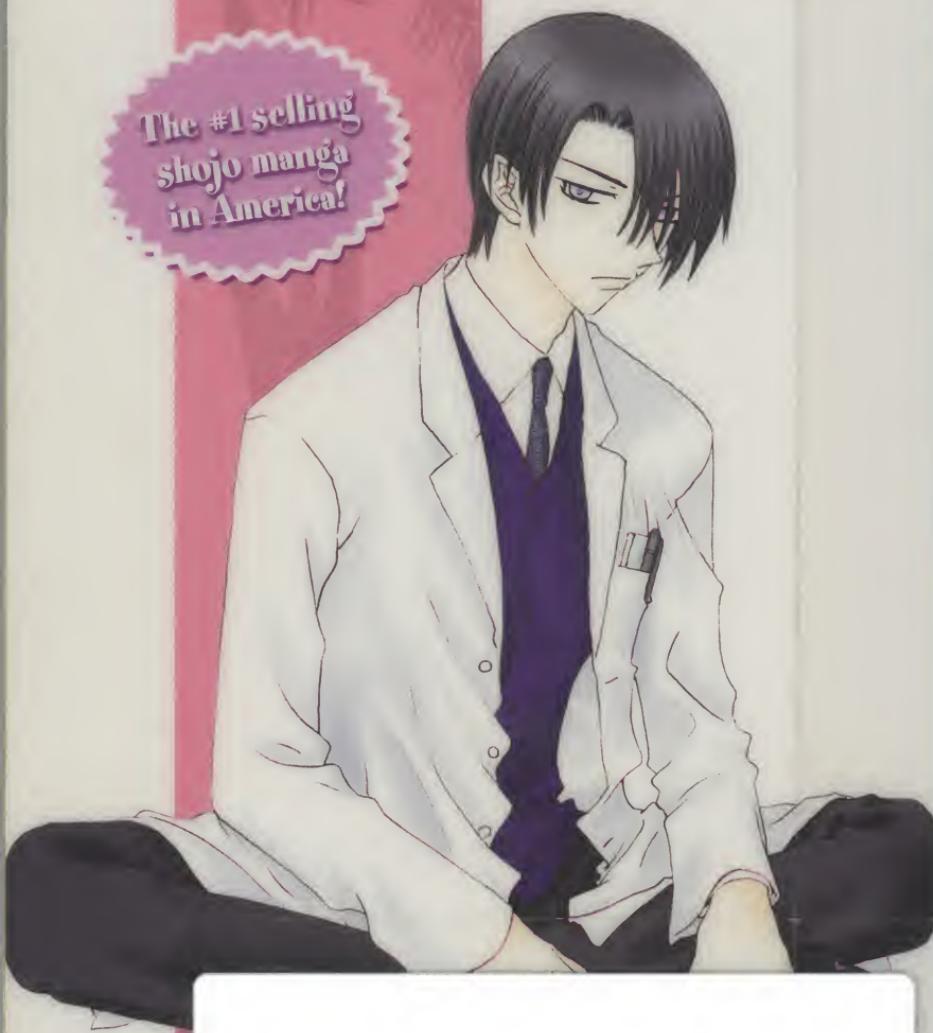


7

Mitsuki Hayashi

Fruits Basket

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in America!

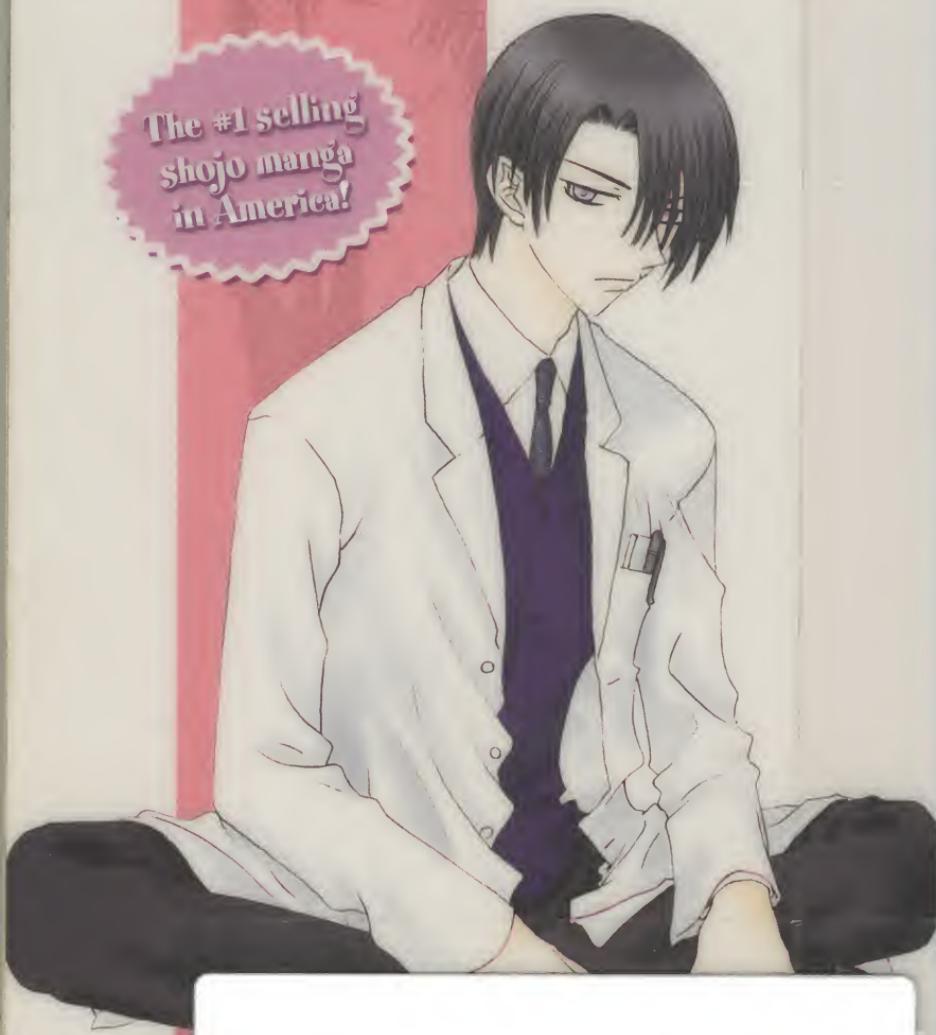


7

Natsuki Takaya

Fruits Basket™

The #1 selling
shojo manga
in America!



7

Makoto Takaya

Tohru and company have been having a lot more fun ever since Kisa came to visit. Now it's time for Tohru to meet another member of the Zodiac—the skillfully sarcastic grade-school student, Hiro! One way or another, this tyke will have to deal with his resentment of Tohru and his affection for Kisa. Where will he find the answers? In the fabulous 7th volume of the super-popular *Fruits Basket*, of course!



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STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent, when the Sohma family took me in. I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, they change into their Zodiac animal!



Fruits Basket™

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Fruits Basket Characters



Kagura Sohma, the Boar

Bashful, yet headstrong. Determined to marry Kyo, even if it kills him.

Momiji Sohma, the Rabbit

Half-German. He's older than he looks. Mother rejected him because of the Sohma curse.



Katsuharu Sohma, the Ox

The nicest of guys, except when he goes "Black." Then you'd better watch out.



Akito Sohma

The head of the Sohma clan. A dark figure of many secrets. Treated with fear and reverence.



Kisa Sohma, the Tiger

Kisa became shy and self-conscious due to constant teasing by her classmates. Yuki, who has similar insecurities, feels particularly close to Kisa.



Saki Hanajima

"Hana-chan." Can sense people's "waves." Goth demeanor scares her classmates.

Arisa Uotani

"Uo-chan." A tough-talking "Yankee" who looks out for her friends.



Tohru Honda

The ever-optimistic hero of our story. An orphan, she now lives in Shigure's house, along with Yuki and Kyo, and is the only person outside of the family who knows the Sohma family's curse.



Yuki Sohma, the Rat

Soft-spoken. Self-esteem issues. At school he's called "Prince Yuki."



Kyo Sohma, the Cat

The Cat who was left out of the Zodiac. Hates Yuki, leeks and miso. But mostly Yuki.

Mabudachi Trio



Shigure Sohma, the Dog

Enigmatic, mischievous and a little perverted. A popular novelist.



Hatori Sohma, the Dragon

Family doctor to the Sohma. Only thing he can't cure is his broken heart.



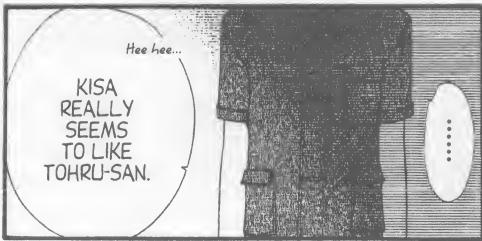
Ayame Sohma, the Snake

Yuki's older brother. A proud and playful drama queen...er, king. Runs a costume shop.



Chapter 37

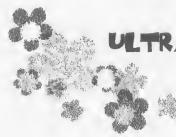
Fruits Basket



*oba-san: "aunt." Also used towards young women who are like family.

ULTRA-SPECIAL BLAH, BLAH, BLAH, 1

I had hay fever before a few years back, but this time my nose won't stop running. It's a real problem. Where on earth does all that snot come from? Sigh...



ULTRA-SPECIAL BONUS BLAH, BLAH, BLAH

Please don't think too much about Mogeta. Seriously. Just go with it. Takaya just drew it because she felt like it.

Today is the day, once again. Yes it's true!
Ari's taking a walk with Mogeta!

(Aritamis Donpaninna Taiso is long, so it's always abbreviated)

Today is the day, and you know he can't lose!
That mysterious creature, Mogeta!*

Sometimes--well, rarely--when they remember--they fight scaaaaary enemies.

Today's enemy



*This is the Mogeta anime theme song...more or less...

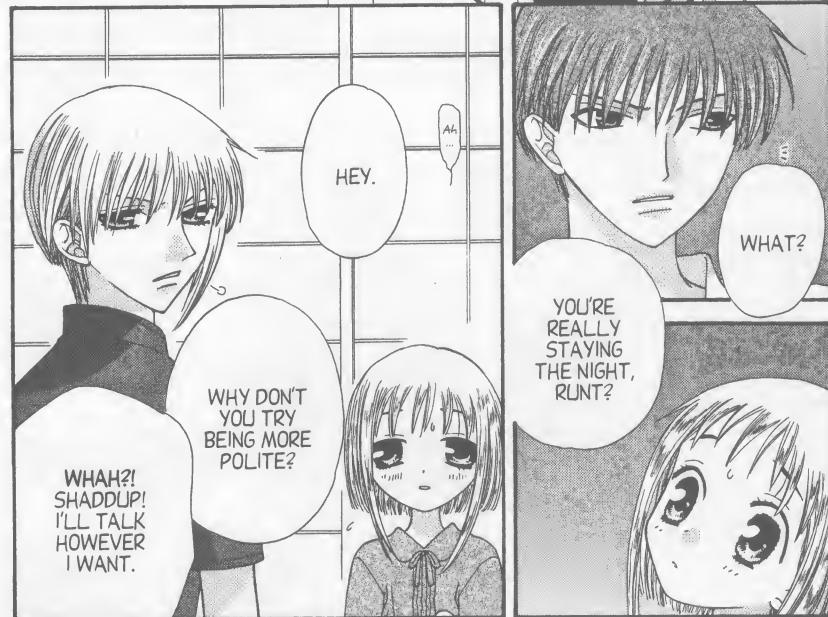
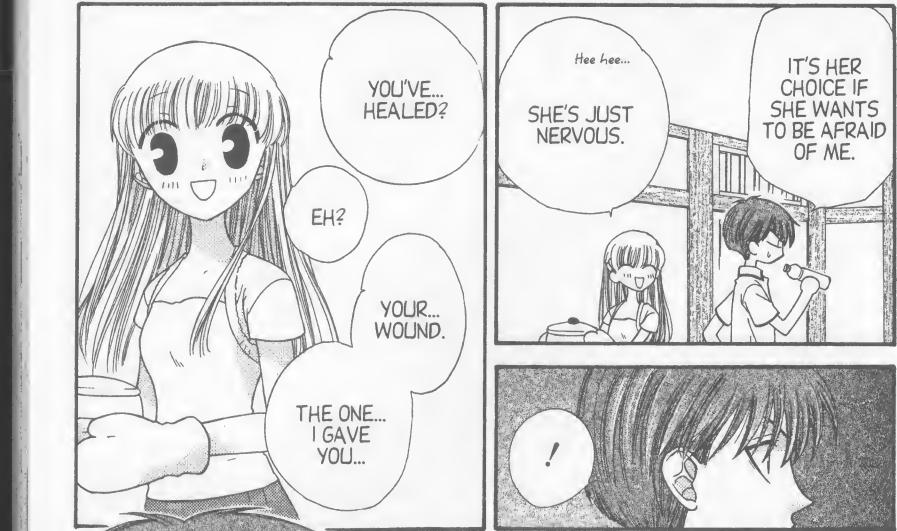


Fruits Basket 7:
Part 1

Hajimemashite and Konnichiwa. Natsuki Takaya reporting for duty. You've waited a long time, and here it is--volume 7! It's Hatori, this time. Goodness, it took a long time for me to recover fully; I apologize. I think there may have been people waiting for a Hatori cover... Were there? (I feel bad having to ask.) Anyway, Furuba has returned, so please enjoy it.

Editor's note: While Takaya-sensei was working on Furuba vol. 6, she sustained a serious injury to her drawing hand that caused the series to go on hiatus in Japan. (She mentions her hand in a vol. 6 sidebar). Fortunately, it was a speedy recovery and after a delay on Vol. 7, Takaya-sensei was able to return to the work she loves.







* In Japanese, many words and concepts are formed by combining other words. Shigure is commenting on the fact that the written form of "adolescence" is formed by combining the written words for "green" and "spring."





WHAT IS HE...?

HEY!

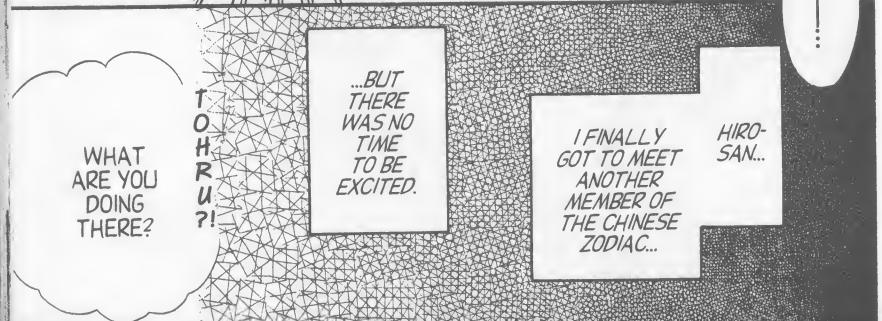
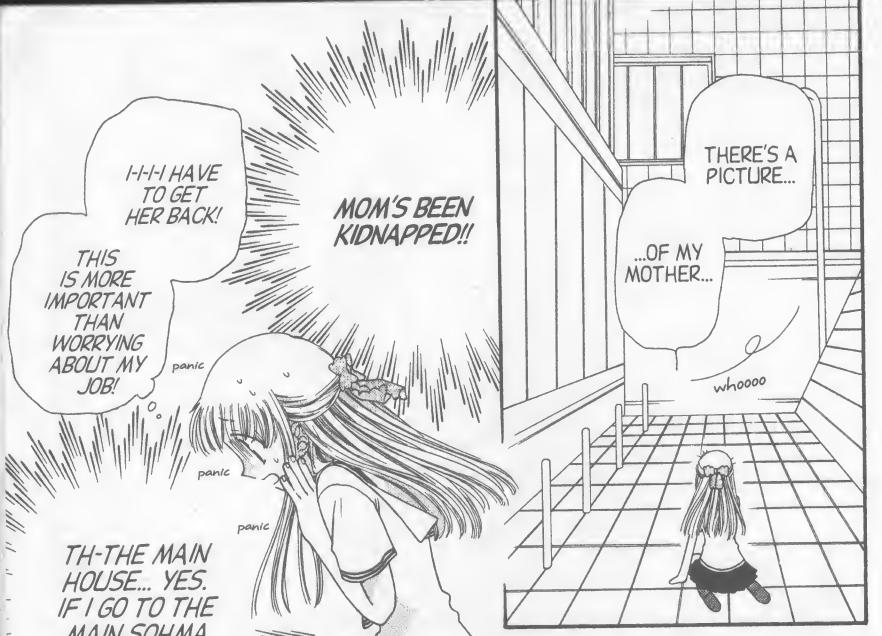
I CAN'T STAND PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO INDIVIDUALITY!!

NO...



smile





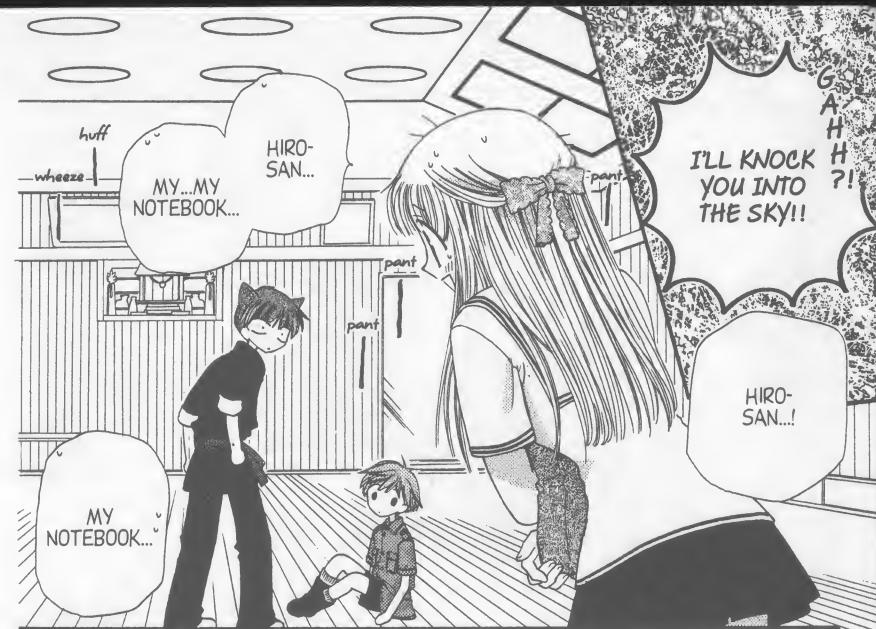


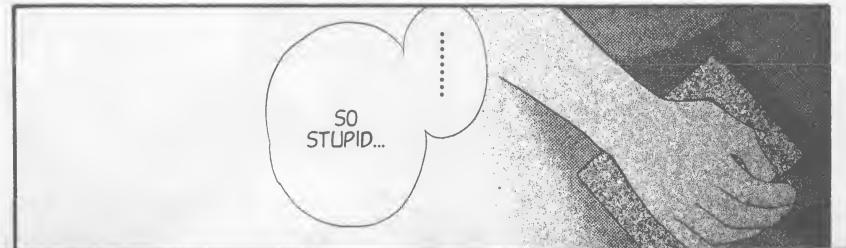
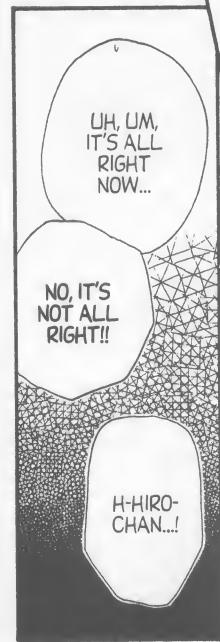
SO YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU'D DO WHATEVER PEOPLE TOLD YOU TO IF IT YOU MEAN YOU'D DIE IF SOMEONE TOLD YOU IT WAS THE POLITE THING TO DO? WOULD YOU KILL SOMEONE TO SHOW YOUR GOOD MANNERS?



YOU SMART-MOUTHED BRAT!!







*onee-chan: Literally "big sister."
Also used towards sister-figures.







Chapter 38





ULTRA-SPECIAL BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 2

By the way, I like chocolate bananas. And parfaits--I love chocolate parfaits. When I was in the hospital, I wanted to eat them so much. (Also steak, hamburgers, gyoza...)

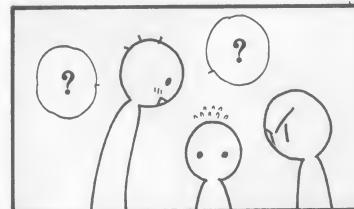
Fruits Basket 7:
Part 2

When I broke my left arm, I had to stay in the hospital for a while. I even had to undergo surgery, which, fortunately, was a success. And so I have returned!

There may be some people who think that my handwriting's gotten sloppy since I've recovered, but my handwriting's always been sloppy, so please don't worry about it. And I'm sorry it's hard to read (laugh). Apparently the surgery I had came with a lot of risks, but surgery itself is like that, and I was pretty desperate, so I had no second thoughts. It was much harder for me to not be working.







HE HADN'T EVEN IMAGINED WHAT WOULD HAPPEN WHEN HE TOLD AKITO ABOUT IT.

POOR HIRO...

HE MAY HAVE BEEN TOO AFRAID NOT TO.

LOVE KISA

IN THE END, AKITO...

...GAVE KISA WOUNDS THAT TOOK TWO WEEKS TO FULLY HEAL.

...THERE MAY BE SOMETHING PAINFUL.

CHAOTIC FEELINGS.

FEELINGS THAT THEY CAN'T BREAK OFF.

BUT THERE MIGHT BE...

...ANOTHER REASON, TOO.

IS THAT WHAT THEY MEAN BY...

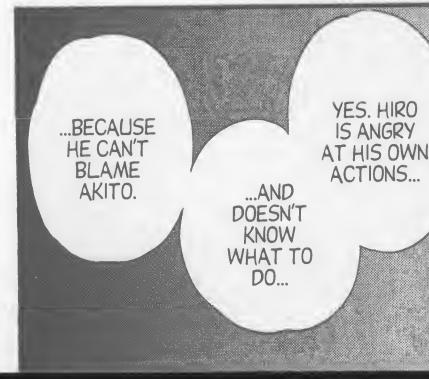
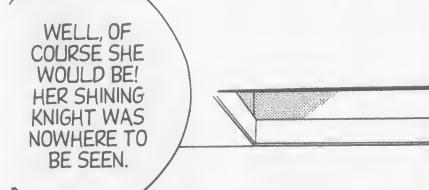
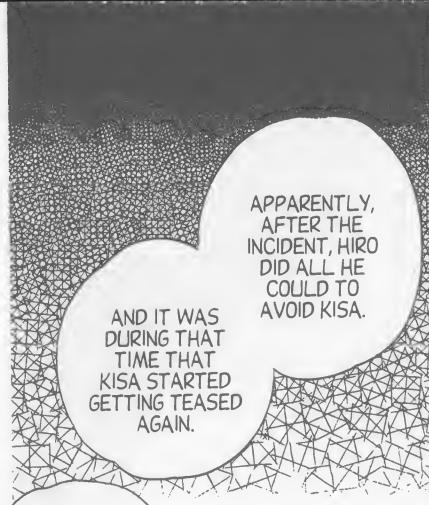
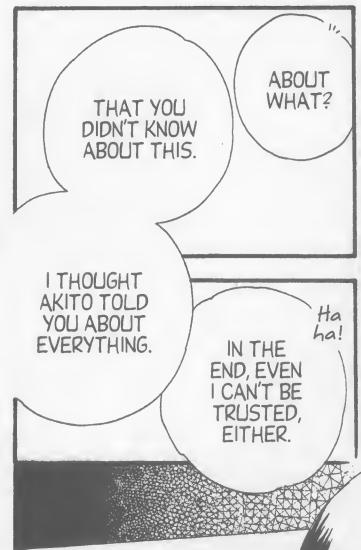
...A BOY'S SHYNESS?

"WHETHER OUR HEARTS LEAD US 'OUTSIDE' OR EVEN WITHIN THE SOHMA ESTATE, WE MUST BE PREPARED!"

SWIRLING AROUND INSIDE HIRO-SAN'S SMALL BODY...

-3

I SEE...





YOU WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF COMING HERE ON THE WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL?!



WHERE ON EARTH AH, WELL, UM, BUT-?
Eh?
DON'T MAKE US ANY MORE TIRED. HURRY AND TAKE US SOMEWHERE.



SO THEN HAA-KUN CAN REST A LITTLE MORE EASILY?

YEAH.

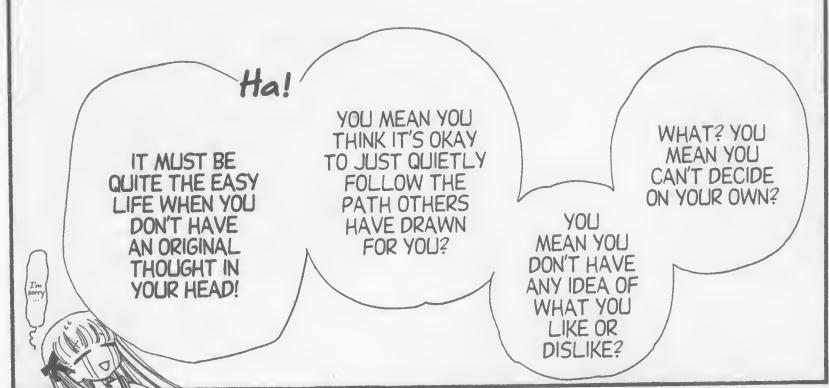
BUT SHE'LL BE OUT OF THE HOSPITAL SOON, RIGHT?

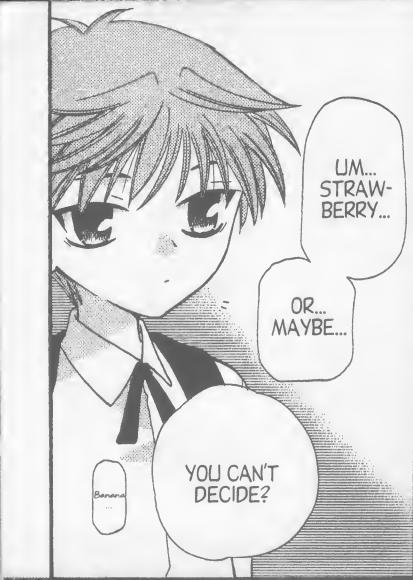
WE ALL...

...REALLY SUCK AT THIS.

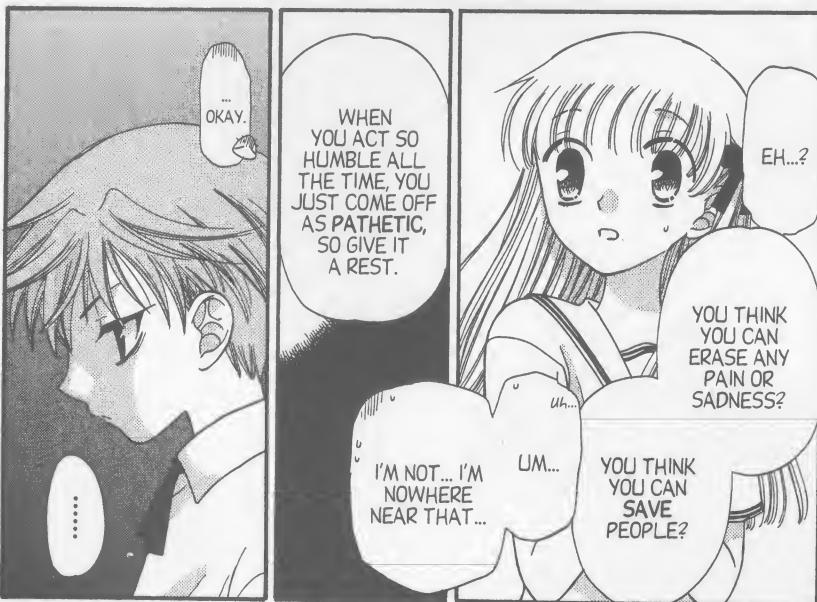
YEAH. IT WOULD BE TERRIBLE IF SHE WENT THROUGH THE SAME THING AS RIN.

YOU KNOW...



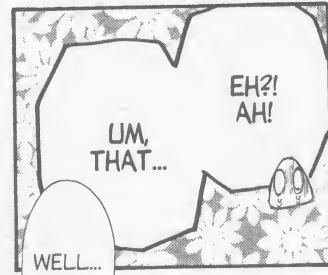


Sign: Desserts to Die For
Crepe Crepe



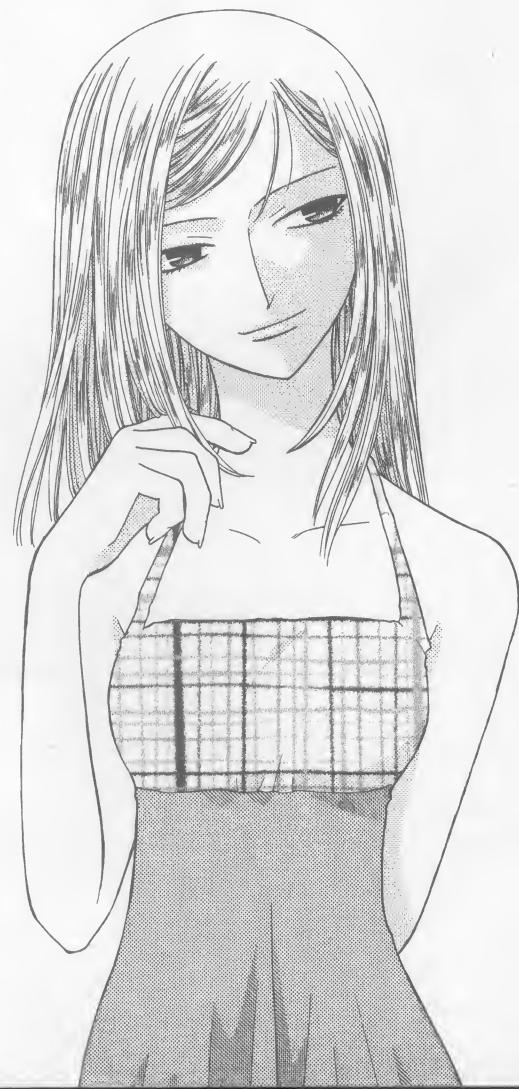








Chapter 39





ULTRA-SPECIAL BLAH, BLAH, BLAH. 3

There are a lot of Sohma men who hate summer, starting with the Mabudachi Trio. They prefer kotatsu (heated blankets) and oranges.





Fruits Basket 7:
Part 3

When I first arrived at the hospital, I was pretty nervous, but before I knew it, I was sleeping like a baby. All night long! I would fall asleep before nine and wake up at five, and I ate three meals a day... I hadn't lived like that since middle school. Even though I was in the hospital I found myself thinking, "This is a healthy life!" (laugh).

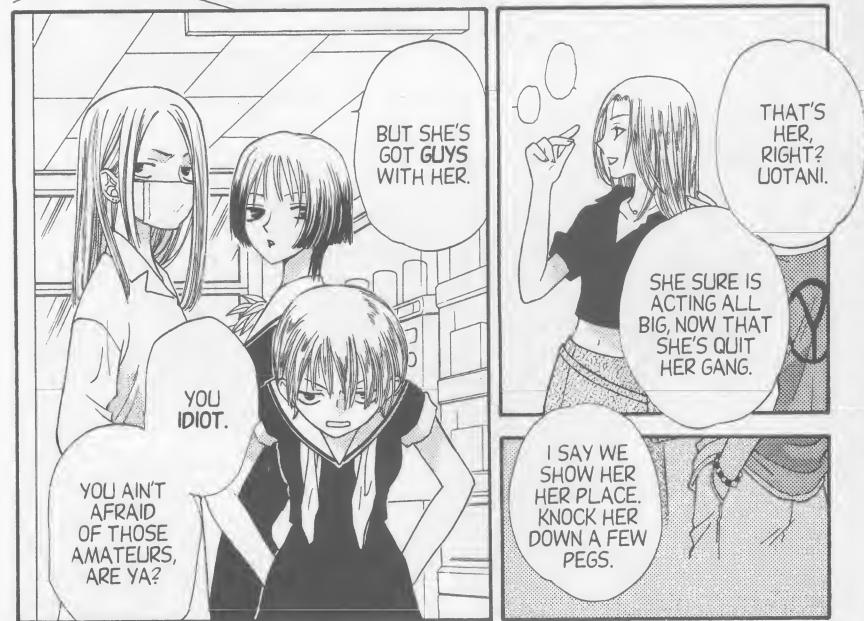
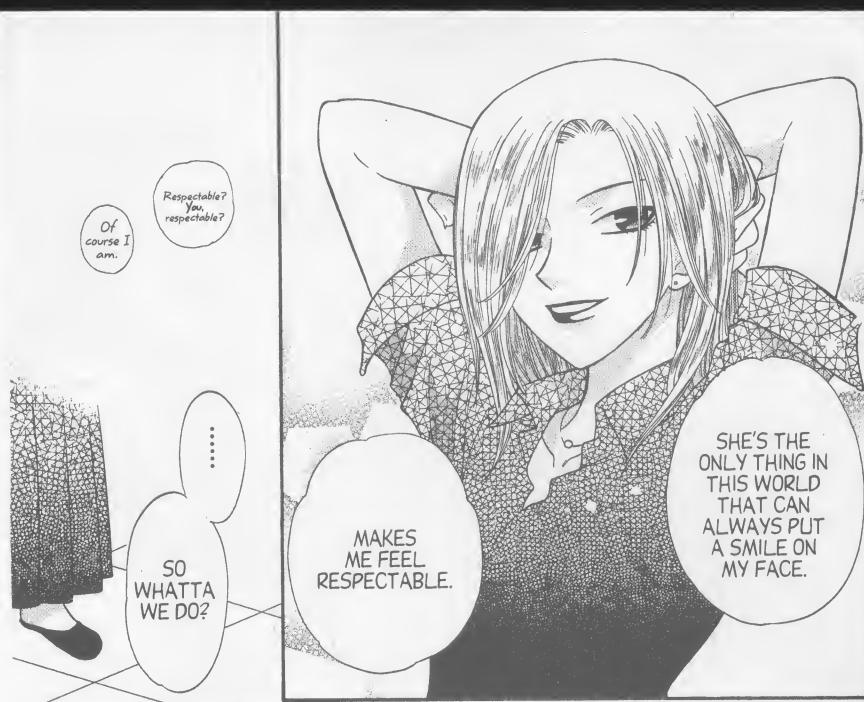
Normally I don't watch much TV, but as I had so much time on my hands I ended up watching dramas and stuff and for some reason I got hooked on baseball—it was crazy. For me. But as I had to go to sleep before nine there were a lot of times when I never found out who won... (Unless it went 'til morning, I wouldn't know the score...)







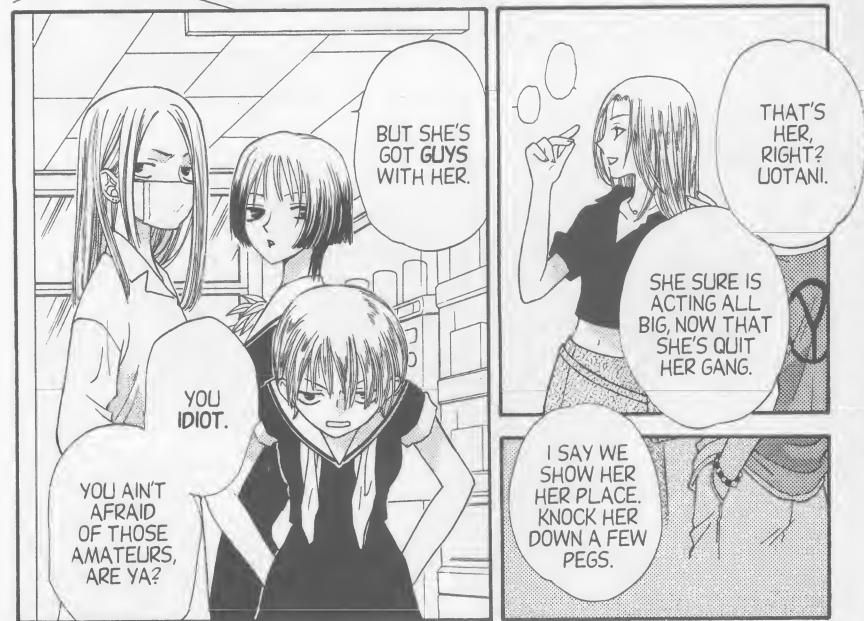




...A PRESENT?!

YOU GUYS GOT ME...

EH...?

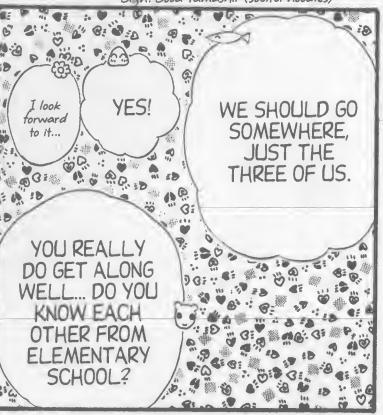
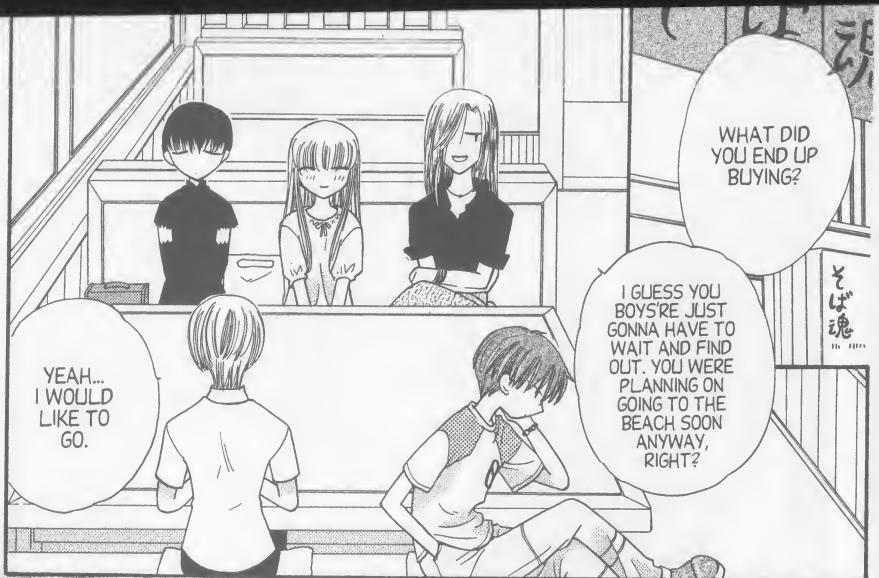


YOU AIN'T AFRAID OF THOSE AMATEURS, ARE YA?

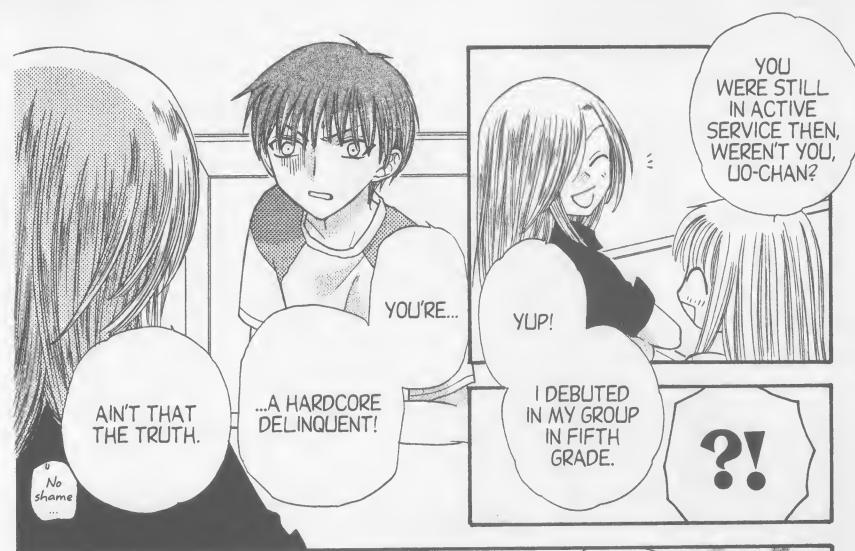
THAT'S HER, RIGHT? UOTANI.

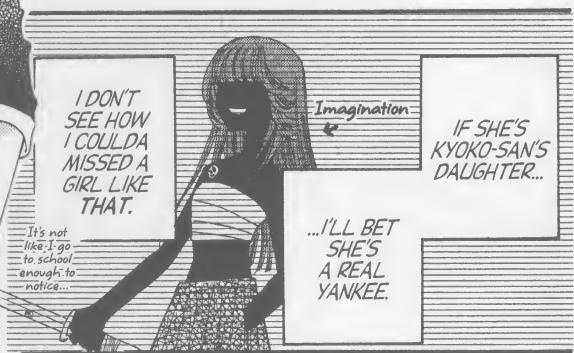
SHE SURE IS ACTING ALL BIG, NOW THAT SHE'S QUIT HER GANG.

I SAY WE SHOW HER HER PLACE. KNOCK HER DOWN A FEW PEGS.



FEELING
LEFT-OUT





SHE
SAID DON'T
STEP ON IT,
DUMBASS!!

AND
YOU! STOP
STANDING
AROUND
AND PICK
THOSE UP!!

IF YOU'RE
TRYING TO
MESS WITH
ME BY SAYING
YOU'RE THE RED
BUTTERFLY'S
DAUGHTER, I'LL
SEND YOU TO
THE NURSE'S
OFFICE...

HONDA?!

AH, UM,
TOHRU...
TOHRU
HONDA...

WHAT'S
YOUR NAME,
ANYWAY?!

WHAT'S
WITH
THIS
GIRL?

PLEASE,
DON'T STEP
ON THAT...

UH, ER,
UM, DON'T
STEP ON...

Y-YES, I'M
SO SORRY!

UH...
HEY, BE
CAREFUL!

Moron

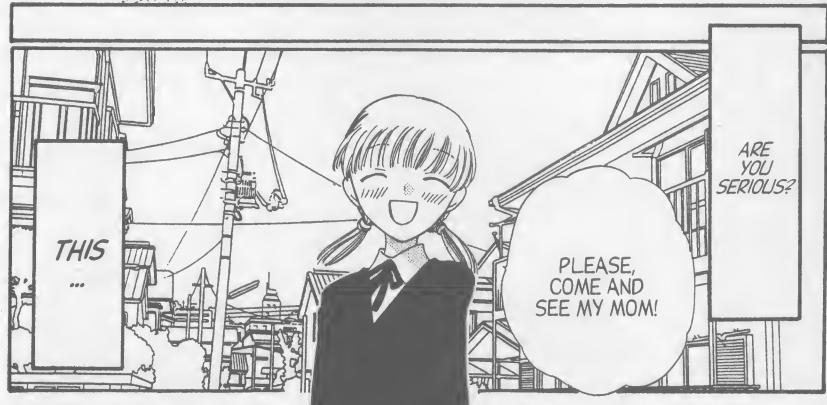
I'LL BE
CAREFUL
FROM NOW
ON...!!

I'M
SORRY...

I'M...

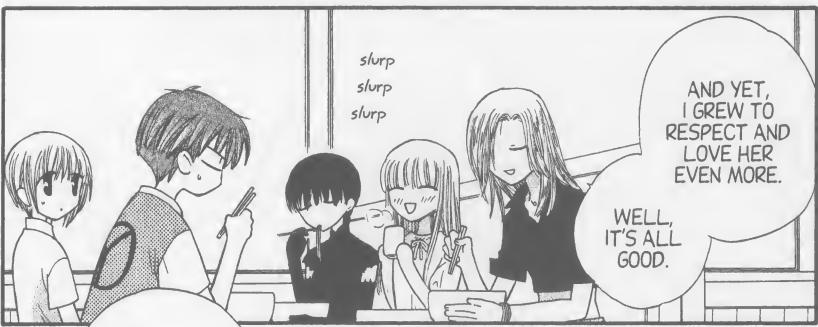
WH-
WH-WHAT
SHOULD I
DO? THIS IS
TERRIBLE!
OH, I'M
REALLY...!

AAH!!



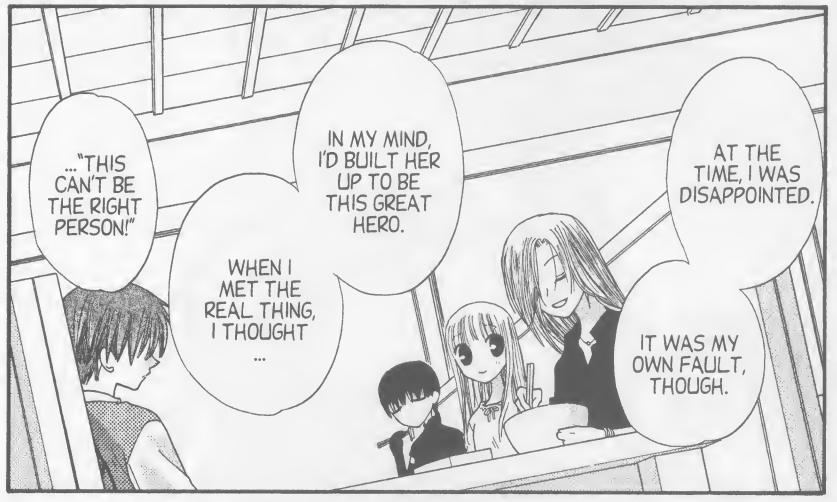
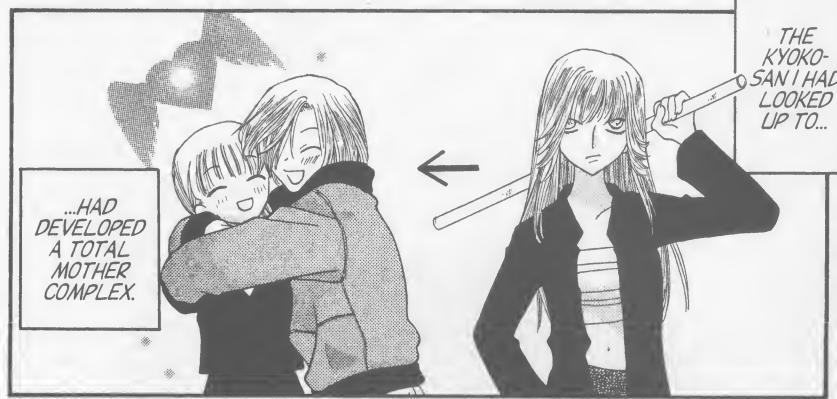


Chapter 40



Fruits Basket 7:
Part 4

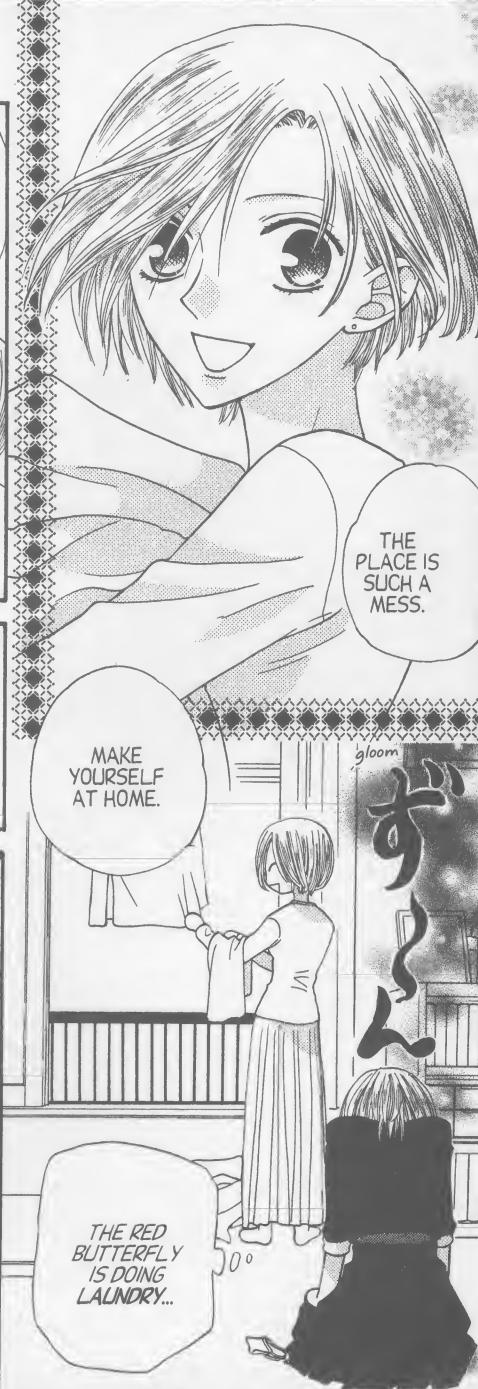
It was strange that, as the days went on, the hospital bed became "my bed." There was more and more of my stuff nearby. I hated that I couldn't play video games (laugh). Apparently, the day before my operation, my mother and people couldn't sleep. But, as usual, Takaya slept like a log! I thought again about how those situations are harder on the loved ones than they are on the actual patient. (It's a kind of torture, especially for family.) But when it came time for the actual surgery, even I had a hard time. Yup—I finally got scared. Yeah, it's scary, really...



ULTRA-SPECIAL BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 4

Having your heart shaken by a fictional character, or being made to cry for them, is very sad, but I think it's a good thing. I know it sounds negative, but it's really a positive experience.

It is! I'm not making any sense, am I? No, I'm sorry.





SLAM!

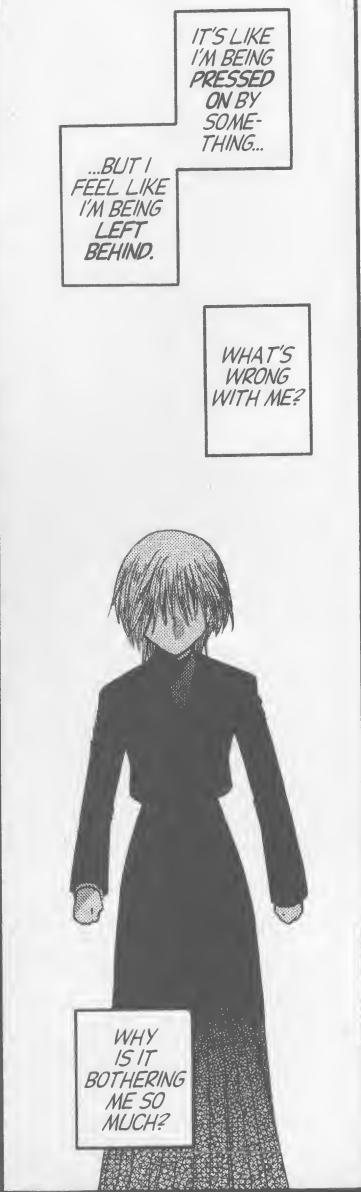


I DON'T KNOW ...

IS IT BECAUSE SHE WAS SO GODDAMN CHEERFUL?

...SOMETHING ABOUT HER ATTITUDE JUST...

DID YOU GET TO MEET THE BUTTERFLY?



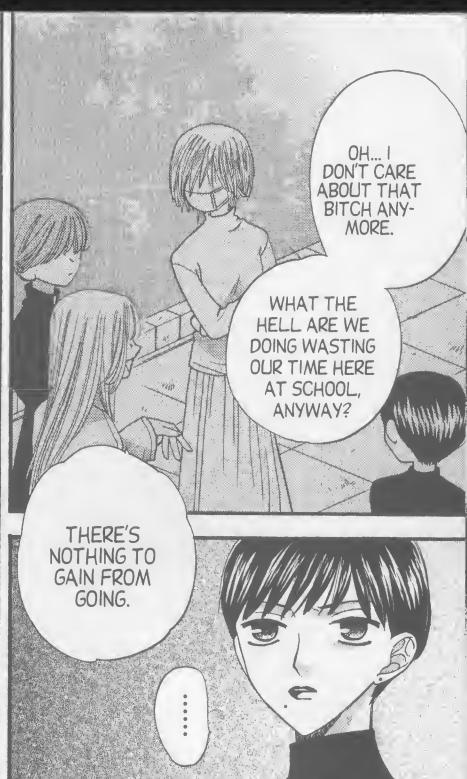
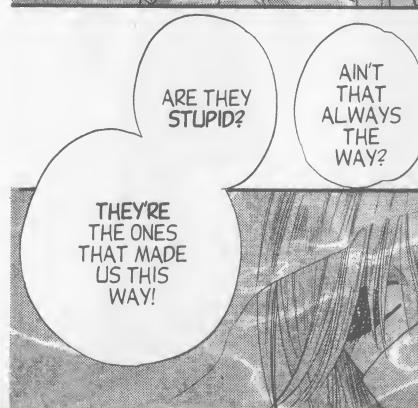
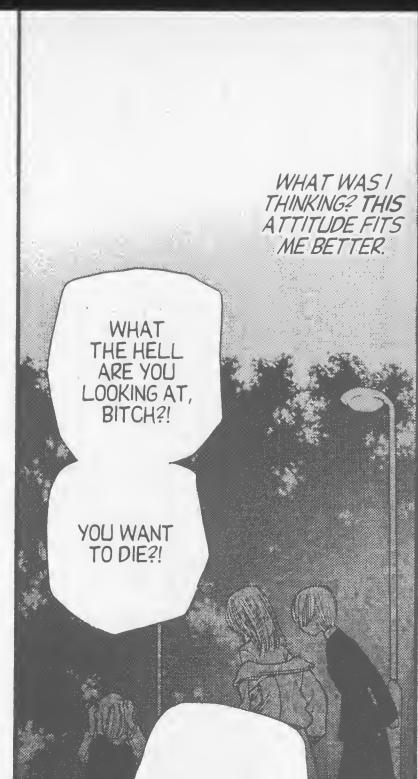
...AM I SO ANNOYED?

WHY...





Ah ha ha ha...

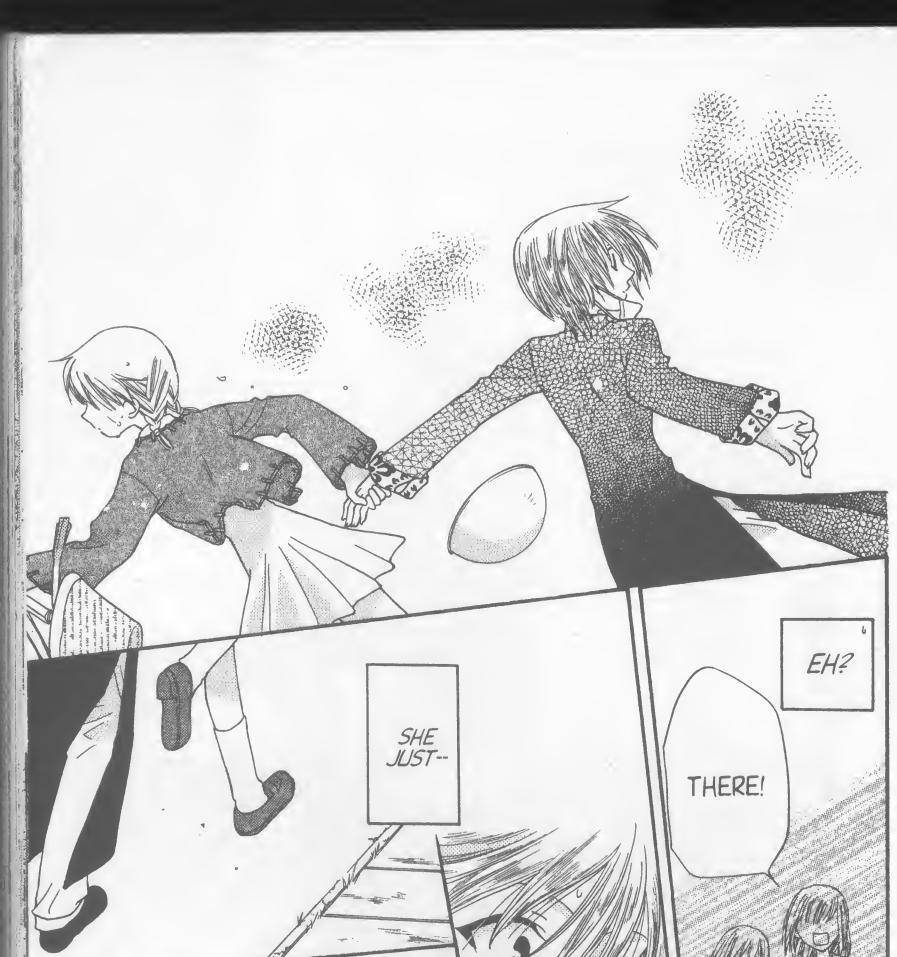






...JUST
ASSUME
YOUR
OPPONENT'S
A ROOKIE!







She's already in.





...EVEN IF I
WAS USED
TO IT...

...I'D THINK
NOTHING OF
TELLING HIM...

IT'S LIKE
I'M THE
ONLY
ONE WHO
DOESN'T
BELONG.

IT'S
UNCOMFORTABLE.



"YOU'RE NOT
MY FATHER!"
AND "DROP
DEAD!"...

WHAT
DIFFERENCE
WOULD IT
MAKE IF I FELT
THAT WAY
OR NOT?

I'M STILL
THE SAME
PERSON.

THAT'S
JUST THE
WAY I AM.

EVEN IF THAT
DAMN FATHER
OF MINE
COOKED DINNER
AND WAITED
FOR ME...

"I'D SAY, 'I'M
NOT COMING
BACK'" AND
"THIS TASTES
LIKE CRAP!"

I'LL TRY.
IT'S JUST...
UNCOMFORTABLE.

UO-
CHA...

WHAT-
EVER.

WE'D
REALLY
LIKE IT IF
YOU STAYED
FOR DINNER

UOTANI-
SAN!

A TOWN
AT DUSK...

THE SMELL
OF EVENING;
HOUSES
WITH
LIGHTS IN
THEM...

A HOUSE
TO GO HOME
TO AFTER
SAYING
GOODBYE TO
FRIENDS...

SOMEONE
WAITING
FOR MY
RETURN...

A KIND
PERSON...

...WHO
WOULD
GREET WITH
A SMILE...

...JEALOUS...

...OF THAT...

I'M STILL
THE SAME,
AREN'T I?

I'M SO
STUPID...

WHAT'S
WRONG
WITH ME?

THEY'RE
SO
PHONY!

UO-CHAN?

AH!

No, I
mean...

...WHAT?

FOR ME
TO BE...

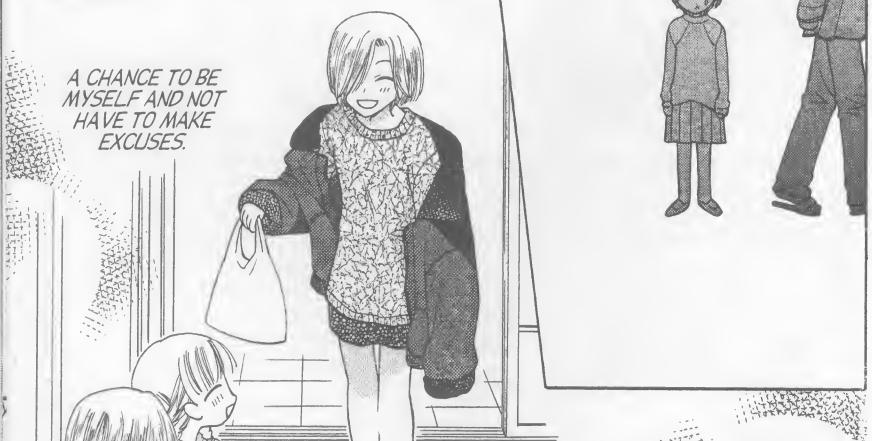


...ALWAYS...

...BEEN
LONELY.

JUST A
LITTLE BIT OF
"ORDINARY."

A CHANCE TO BE
MYSELF AND NOT
HAVE TO MAKE
EXCUSES.



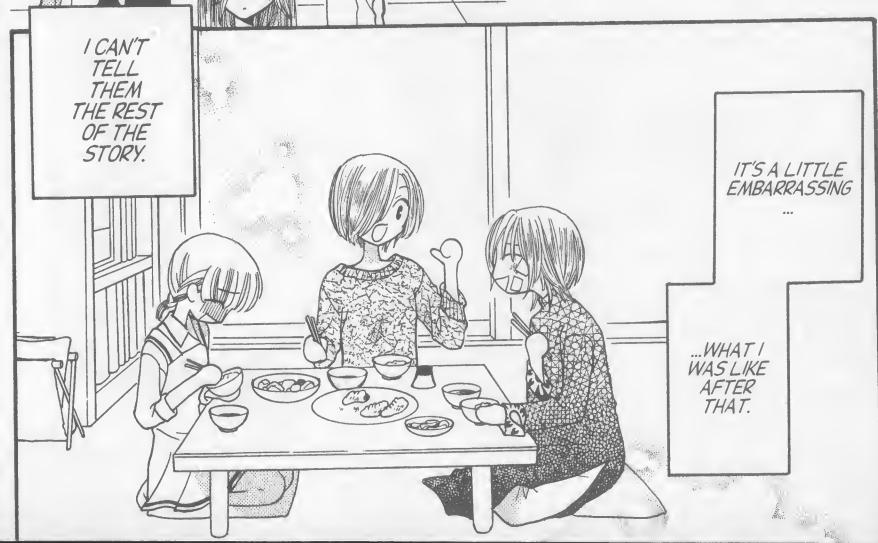
MAYBE
THAT'S WHAT
I'VE BEEN
LOOKING FOR

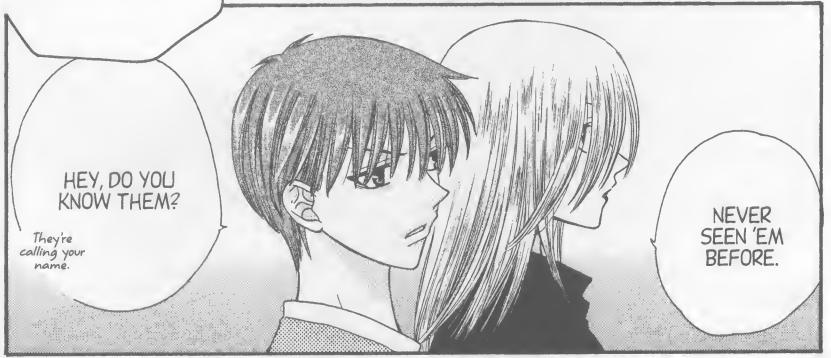






Chapter 41





ULTRA-SPECIAL BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 5

Has anyone noticed what's written on Uo-chan's sleeve on the title page to this chapter? It says "Fruits Basket" in phonetic kanji. I was playing around. I'm sorry (laugh).

I feel
so grateful!



...da~

Harada-sama, Araki-sama,
Mom, Dad...

All the people who worked to
create the anime, all the voice
actors...

From a certain medical school,
T-sensei-sama, I-sensei-sama, all
the nurses... From a certain
hospital, K-sensei-sama, the
acupuncturist, K-sensei-sama...

To everyone who reads and supports
this manga...

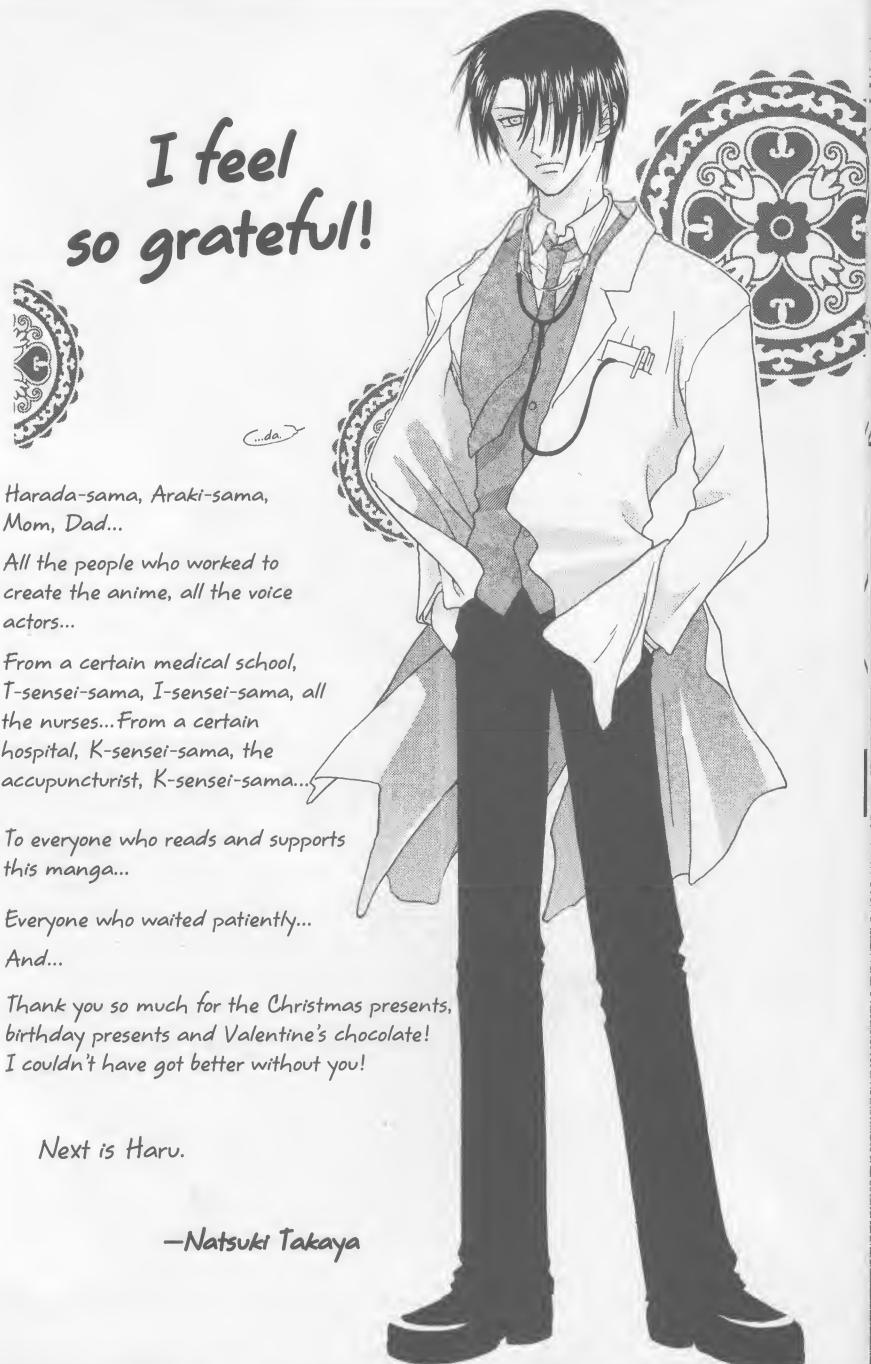
Everyone who waited patiently...

And...

Thank you so much for the Christmas presents,
birthday presents and Valentine's chocolate!
I couldn't have got better without you!

Next is Haru.

—Natsuki Takaya



SHE HAS NO HEART!!

GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.

MAN... I CAN'T BELIEVE I USED TO BE LIKE THAT...

WHAT'S GOING ON?
Army of delinquents?

AAAH, CUT IT OUT.

I WANTED PEOPLE TO NOTICE ME...

...BUT I ACTED LIKE I WANTED TO BE LEFT ALONE.

DON'T.

SHOULD I TAKE THEM ON...?

MAKING FUN OF US...

WE MAY JUST BE DELINQUENTS

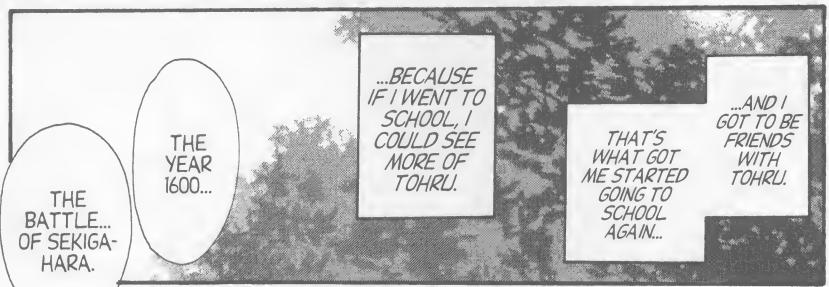
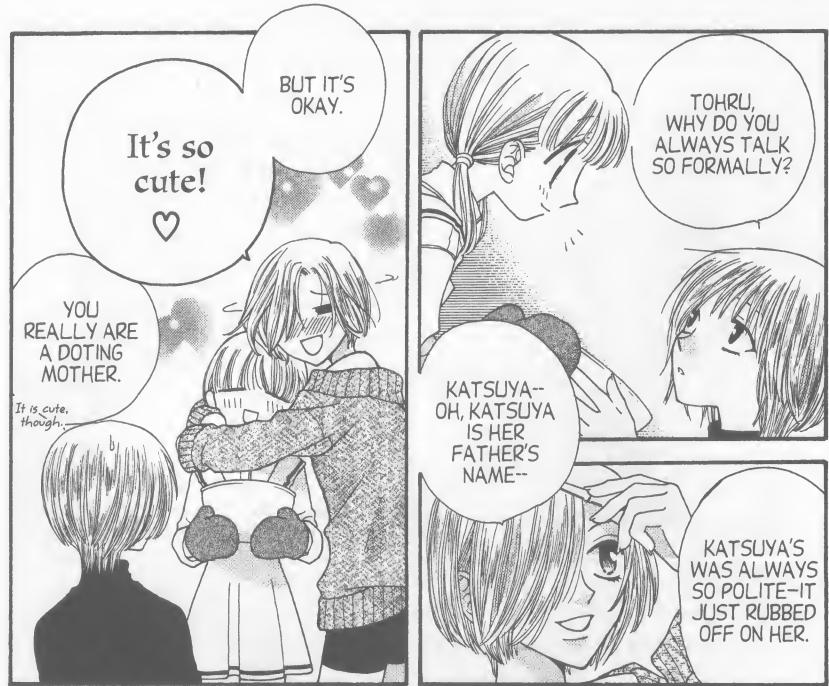
...BUT WE'LL BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU WHO THINK THEY'RE BETTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE! WE'LL GET A REPUTATION...

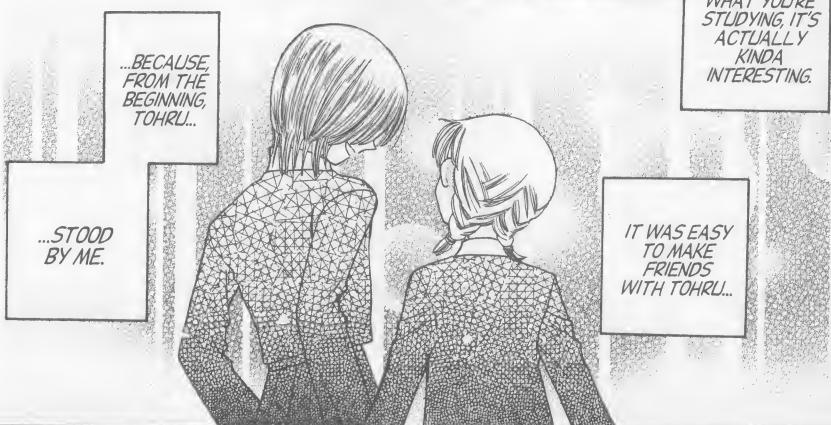
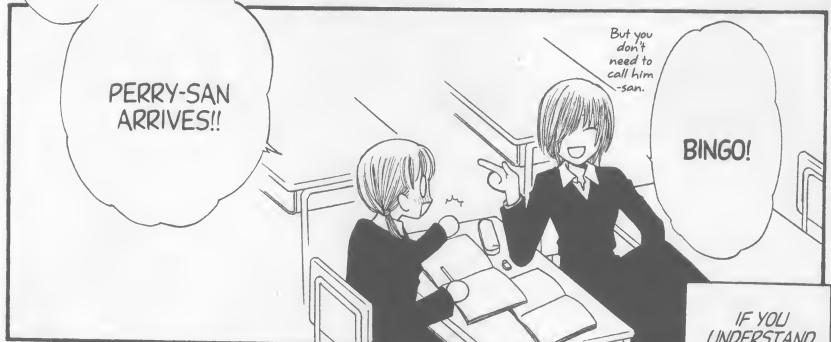
...AND MAKE THIS TERRITORY OURS.

AND WHAT ARE YOU!?

WE WILL BUILD AN ARMY OF DELINQUENTS TO BE FEARED!!

YANKEES! POSERS.













KYO...

...KO...



Fruits Basket 7:
Part 5

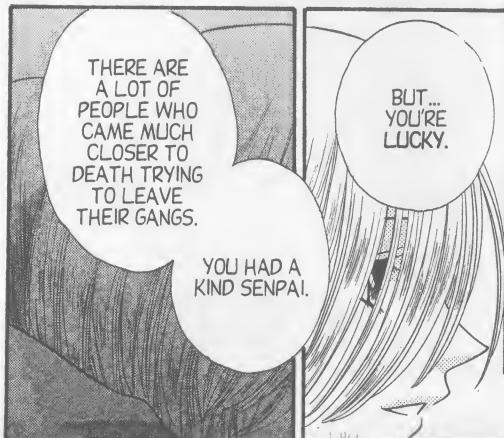
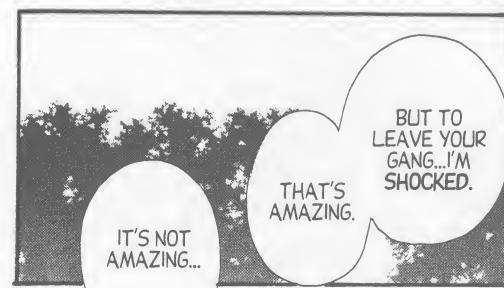
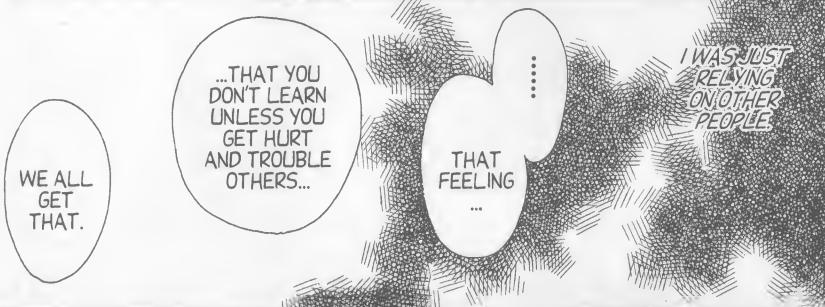
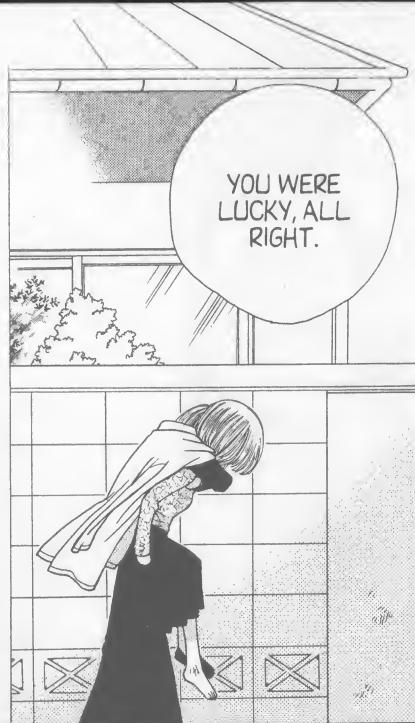
Before I was hospitalized, I played video games, but since I couldn't use my left hand, I used my right hand... I mean I used only my right hand. And doing that I realized how much I love analog controllers! They really helped me out this time! I could use those even with my injured left hand.



I can grind it with my fist.

I still have that habit, so when I have to use the directional pad, I feel inconvenienced.... Speaking of which, are they still making left-handed controllers? I want one.... A long time ago, when I was working part-time jobs, it seemed like all the office supplies were made for right-handed people. I cried... (laugh). I thought, "Why must I be left-handed?"





...MY PHILOSOPHY.

THAT'S...

...THAT'S NOT USELESS.

SO EVEN IF YOU STUMBLE AND MAKE MISTAKES...

...BUT IT WILL HELP YOU GROW!

THINK OF IT LIKE FERTILIZER. SURE IT FEELS LIKE CRAP...

AND BOTH HAVE THEIR USES.

FOR THERE TO BE PAIN, THERE HAS TO BE KINDNESS.

FOR DARKNESS TO STAND OUT, THERE HAS TO BE THE SUN.

YOU CAN'T HAVE ONE WITHOUT THE OTHER.

ALL THIS TIME YOU'VE TRIED TO KEEP AWAY THE BEAUTIFUL THINGS IN LIFE...

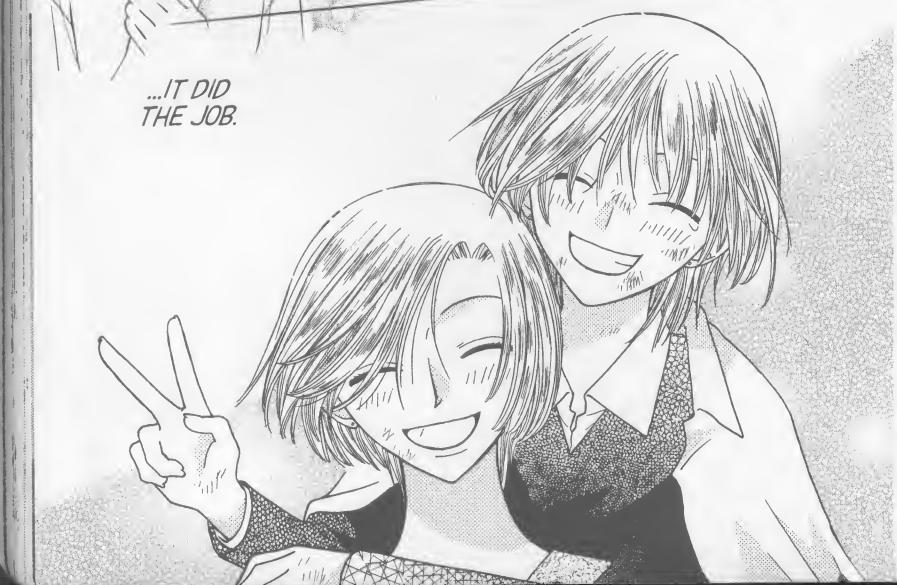
...BUT SUDDENLY YOU FEEL CONFUSED.

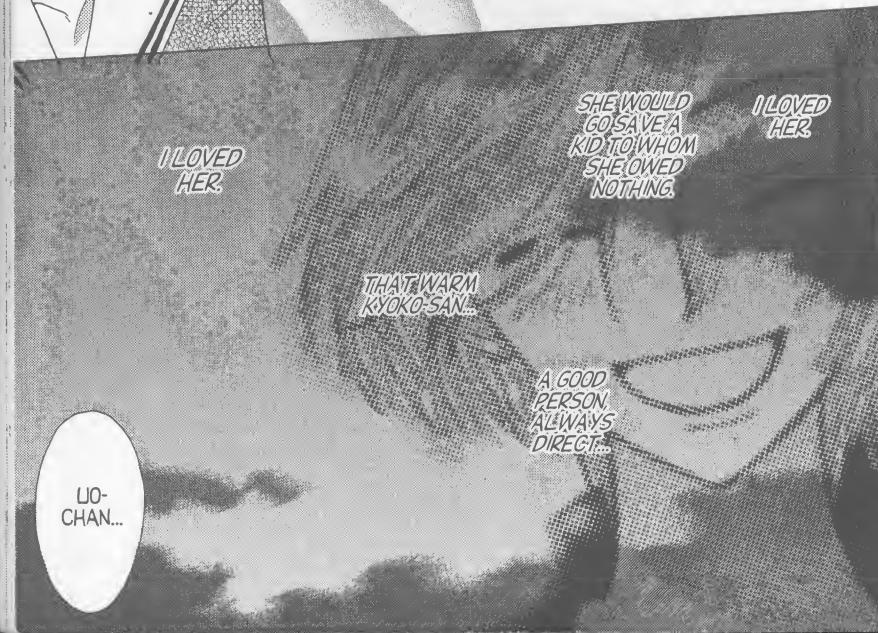
YOU BEGIN TO LOVE THE BEAUTIFUL THINGS.

BUT THERE'S ANOTHER FEELING YOU GET ONCE YOU'VE FALLEN AS LOW AS YOU CAN...

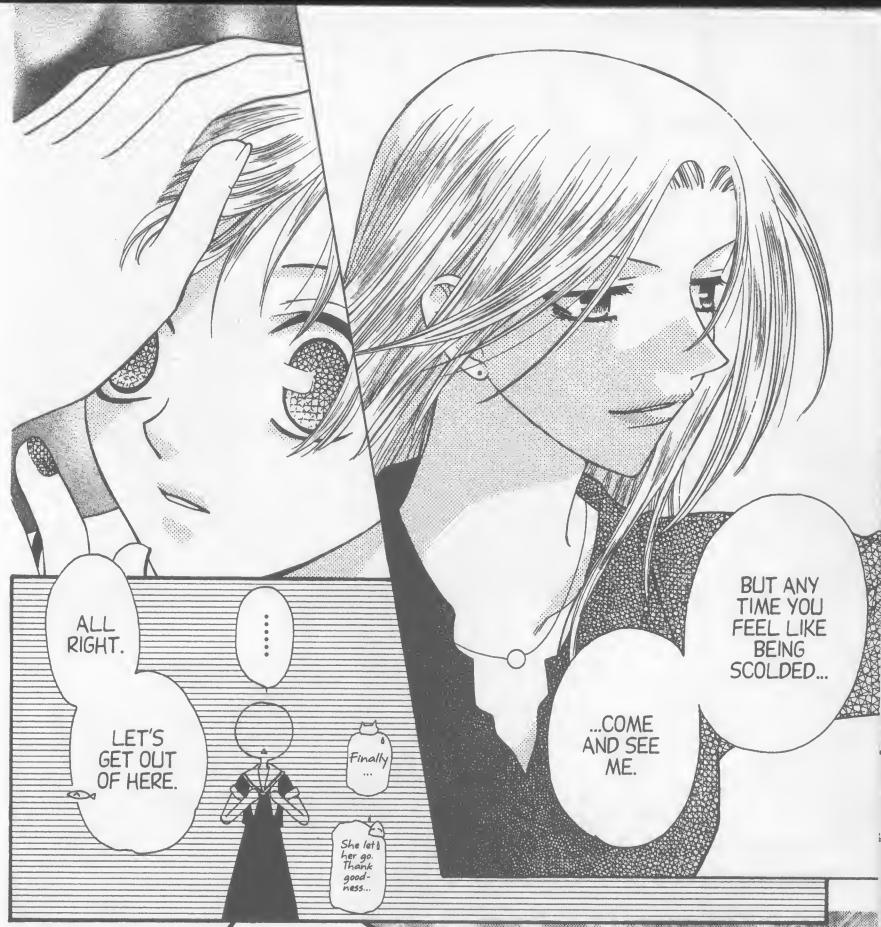
A MOMENT OF TRUE CLARITY.

WHEN YOU REACH THAT POINT, IT CHANGES EVERYTHING.



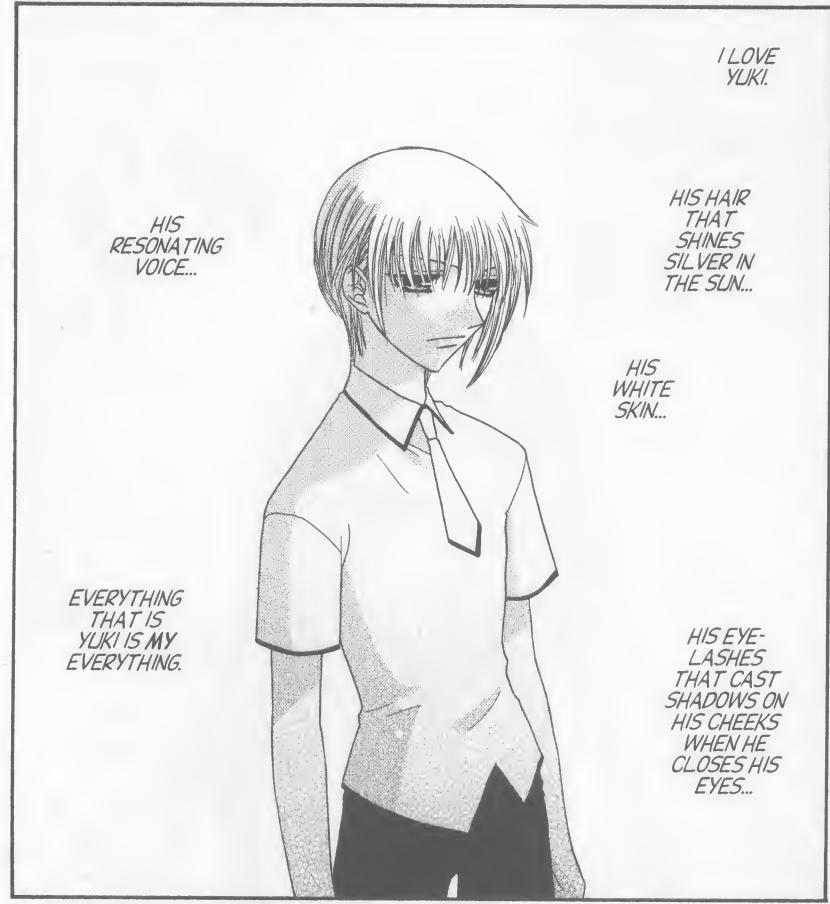






Chapter 42





ULTRA-SPECIAL BLAH, BLAH, BLAH 6

Seeing the form of a cheerful girl reminds me the earth is still spinning and all is right in the world...but... When Mio (the Yuki-Club first year rep) becomes president, Yuki will have already graduated... Or so someone reminded me...and they were absolutely correct (laugh). I was wrong. So careless. But that is, it's...okay...or isn't it? (laugh)

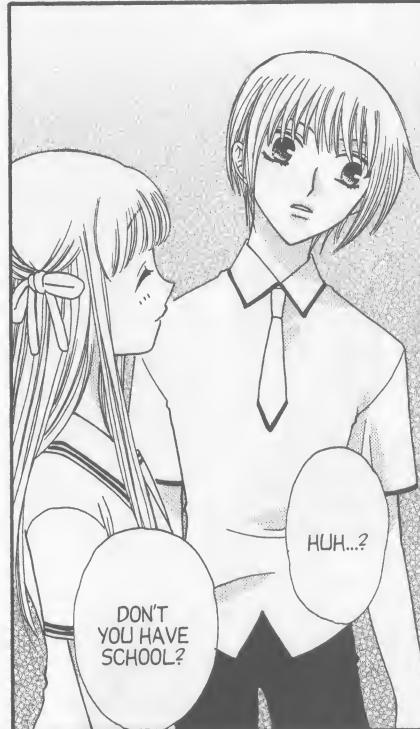




Fruits Basket 7:
Part 6

Anyway...
Anyway, I
wanted to draw
again, so I
continued to do
my best. I think
it's good that I
did. The possi-
bility of it happen-
ing again isn't
zero, so I might
scare myself
and the people
around me, but
I was so happy
that I recovered.

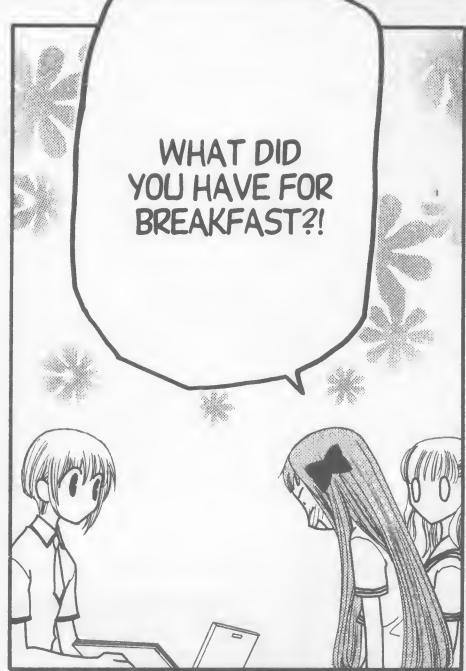
I'm praying
that I can draw
Furuba to the
end, and I will
keep doing my
best. To all you
readers who
encouraged me,
thank you very
much. All I can
ask is that you
please enjoy
Fruits Basket.
Well then, see
you again soon!











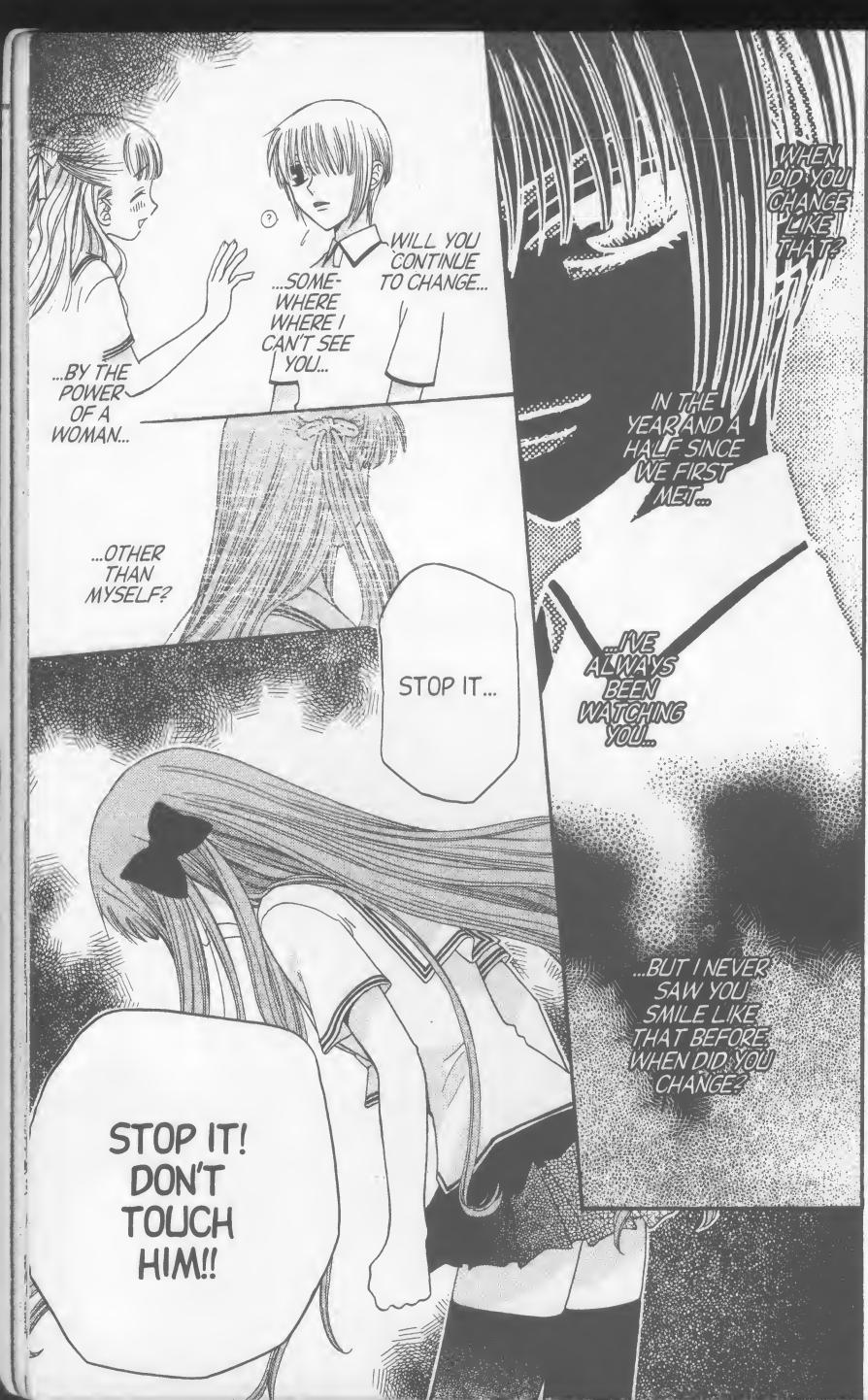


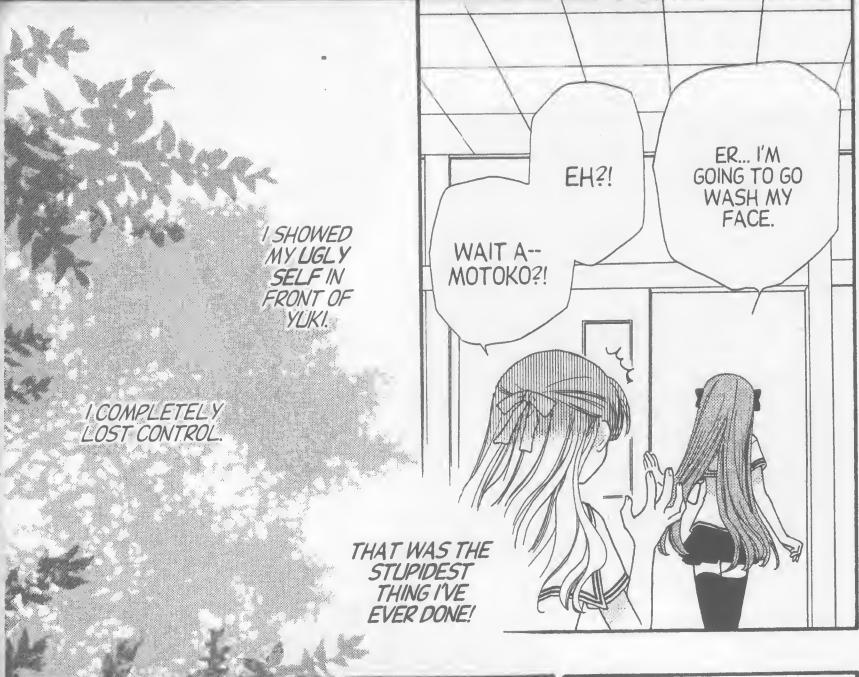
181

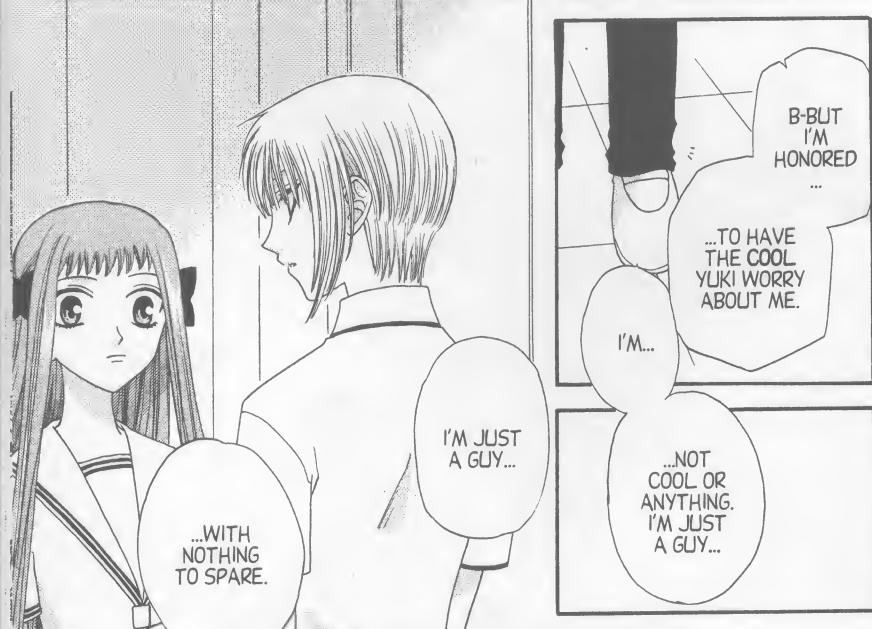


180

*nimono: stewed or boiled foods.
*natto: fermented soybean paste (it's really sticky and stinky).



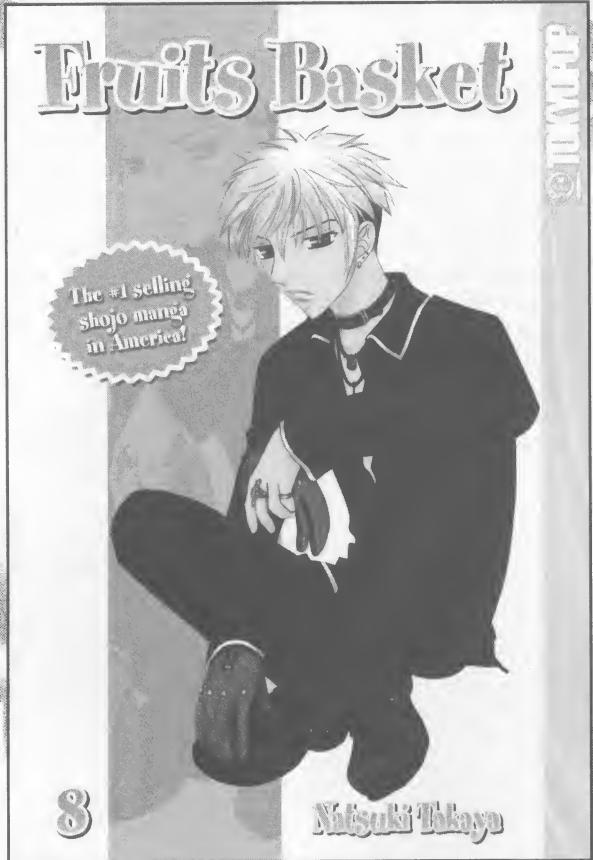








Next time in...



Yellow Sun, Black Haru...

Summer is on its way, so of course Tohru and friends are excited about the upcoming vacation and field trip. But what's that sound? It's Haru going berserk in the classroom...again! Black Haru is full of more rage than usual, so what will happen when Yuki intervenes? And then there's Ritsu Sohma, whose mom Tohru met at the hot spring; what's wrong with this kimono-wearing beauty?!

Fruits Basket Volume 8
Available April 2005

Fans Basket

Melissa C.
Age 13
Olathe, KS



Chelsea M.
Age 13
Milford, CT



Awww, how adorably sad. Thanks for subtitling the Japanese.

Very nice! Love those thin lines. Makes for an interesting look! The dress looks awesome, too!

Liz W.
Age 13
Wilmington, DE



Hilarious! Thanks for making me laugh, Liz!

As the new editor of "Fruits Basket," I have been utterly amazed at the amount of fan mail this book receives from its devoted readers. Seriously. You guys are drowning me in an ocean of letters and art. I have a giant sack under my desk that is continually expanding, like a sun about to go super nova. Trust me, you don't want to be around when that baby explodes. My hands are shredded with paper cuts, all from your brightly colored envelopes and spiffy pictures. I'm not even kidding, you guys. Legally, I am sure this is some form of abuse. But I won't press charges. I guess I'm some kind of masochist, because I am still encouraging you to keep flooding me with your touching words and adorable drawings. Despite the pain I've endured (my back is shot from lifting that sack), I take great joy in reading your mail, and I only wish I could publish every piece of art you send.

- Paul Morrissey, Editor

Chii
Age 14
Killeen, TX



Rachel B.
Age 16
Powder Springs, GA



This is simultaneously precious and disturbing. "I am called Momiji," indeed! Even though Momiji's half-German, I'm never quite ready see him in lederhosen!

I love Tohru's nonexistent skirt—but not as much as the perverted Shigure. I'm pretty sure that's more than just a hug!